

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03088 050323Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 SS-15 /025 W

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5907

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 3088

FOR EA HOLBROOKE AND SHERMAN FROM SHOESMITH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TECH, ENRG, PARM, JA

SUBJECT: FUKUDA VISIT: TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF US NUCLEAR
POLICY

1. DIRGEN UN BUREAU OKAWA TELEPHONED ME MARCH 5 TO CONVEY HIS
SERIOUS CONCERN FOR REPORT JUST RECEIVED FROM JAPANESE EMBASSY
WASHINGTON INDICATING THAT ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR POLICY LIKELY
TO BE ANNOUNCED JUST PRIOR
TO PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S VISIT.

2. OKAWA SAID THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON AS HEAD
OF GOJ NUCLEAR ENERGY TEAM, INOUE HAD BEEN GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND
THAT ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR POLICY WOULD NOT BE FINALIZED AND
ANNOUNCED UNTIL SOME TIME IN MID-APRIL. JAPANESE EMBASSY NOW HAS
REPORTED, HOWEVER, THAT IN CONVERSATION ON MARCH 3, SCHEINMAN
HAD INFORMED THEM THAT FIRST DRAFT OF NEW POLICY WOULD BE
COMPLETED BY END OF THAT WEEK, THAT INTERAGENCY CLEARANCE PROCESS
WOULD BEGIN FOLLOWING WEEK AND THAT PRESIDENT WOULD MAKE FINAL
DECISION QTE ABOUT TWO WEEKS FROM NOW UNQTE OR JUST PRIOR TO
FUKUDA VISIT.

3. OKAWA EMPHASIZED THAT NOTHING COULD BE MORE EMBARRASSING TO
PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA THAN FINAL DECISION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF
ADMINISTRATION'S NUCLEAR POLICY PRIOR TO HIS MEETING WITH PRESI-
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DENT CARTER. HE INSISTED THAT SHOULD THIS OCCUR, IT WOULD IN ALL
LIKELIHOOD BE CHARACTERIZED IN JAPAN AS A QTE CARTER SHOCK
UNQTE. OKAWA SAID THAT CONTRARY TO SOME RECENT JAPANESE PRESS
REPORTS, PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA DOES INTEND TO RAISE WITH THE
PRESIDENT JAPAN'S CONCERNS IN RELATION TO U.S. NUCLEAR POLICY.
SHOULD THE U.S. REACH A FINAL DECISION ON THIS POLICY PRIOR TO
FUKUDA'S VISIT IT WOULD IN EFFECT BE QTE SLAMMING THE DOOR IN

HIS FACE UNQTE. OKAWA MADE A STRONG AND URGENT PLEA, THEREFORE, THAT FINALIZATION OF OUR POLICY BE HELD OFF UNTIL AFTER THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT.

4. COMMENT: IT IS, OF COURSE, POSSIBLE THAT THE JAPANESE EMBASSY MISUNDERSTOOD WHATEVER REMARKS SCHEINMAN MAY HAVE MADE ON TIMING. WHAT WE HAVE HEARD UNOFFICIALLY FROM WASHINGTON HAS LED US TO BELIEVE THAT FINAL DECISIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENT WOULD OCCUR AFTER FUKUDA'S VISIT AND EVEN AS LATE AS THE END OF APRIL. NONETHELESS, OKAWA'S STRONG REACTION POINTS UP THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO OUR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN OF HOW WE HANDLE THIS QUESTION. WHATEVER THE FINAL SHAPE OF OUR NUCLEAR POLICY -- AND I CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE JAPAN'S BASIC INTERESTS AND CONCERNS -- IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DAMAGING TO OUR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN, TO THE CONFIDENCE WHICH JAPAN HAS PLACED IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL CONSULT ON MAJOR MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, AND TO THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER IF IT APPEARS THAT FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ON A MATTER OF SUCH HIGH PRIORITY TO JAPAN BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY PERSONALLY TO PLACE JAPAN'S CONCERNS BEFORE THE PRESIDENT.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO ASSURE OKAWA PROMPTLY THAT OUR NUCLEAR POLICY WILL NOT BE FINALIZED OR ANNOUNCED PRIOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT.
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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